

MINUTES OF 1066TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST MAY 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: - COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. BALDWIN, N.PETER J. PROCTOR, T.SHARRATT, AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER, M. APPLETON FIRE OFFICER J.CAINS AND 3 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

The Clerk reminded Members of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters on the agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. No one made a declaration at this stage.

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th April 2012 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 ADJOURNMENT:

THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTER: -

4. PINFOLD:

The Clerk reported the current position regarding the work to the Pinfold.

Following the last meeting he had written to the residents of 1 Green Lane regarding land ownership at the Pinfold to inform them that the Parish Council did not agree with their views.

The Clerk had submitted an estimate for the construction of the maintenance gate adjoining 29 Riley Green amounting to £550.00. The Parish Council accepted this estimate and the Clerk was to ask the contractor Mr. Savage to undertake the work.

However, the Clerk had notified local residents of the developments taking place at the Pinfold and an alternative suggestion had been made that the maintenance gate should be located next to the existing gate to the rear of the properties in Green Lane. It was felt this offered a cheaper and safer solution for access to the Pinfold for maintenance purposes.

He had written to the residents about the possibility of siting the maintenance gate in Green Lane rather than adjacent to 29 Riley Green.

This had led to confusion and the local residents attending the meeting asked for an explanation of the reasons for the additional gate and their ability to gain access to the Pinfold.

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It was explained that the existing access gate to the rear of Green Lane would be retained as a pedestrian access and not locked. The additional larger gate would be to allow the Parish Council's contractor to access the site for mowing. This would occur approximately three times a year and the gate would be locked at all other times.

The local residents agreed to reconsider their position in the light of the discussion.

However, they did object to the siting of a flagpole on the Pinfold and the erection of a story board.

The Parish Council felt that a Story Board should be erected explaining the nature and origins of the site.

Further consideration would be given to the location of a flagpole.

Councillors Peter and Sharratt were of the opinion that the siting of the additional gate next to 29 Riley Green would minimise any disturbance to residents of Green Lane and that the Parish Council should proceed with this proposal.

It was agreed to await the response of the residents of Green Lane regarding the siting of the maintenance gate, to review the situation relating the erection of a flagpole and continue with the proposed erection of a story board at the Pinfold.

Councillor Peter indicated that the grass needed cutting and the Clerk would ask Mr. Savage to do this as soon as possible.

Finally it was reported that County Councillor Otter the Parish Councils Champion at the County Council had agreed to a grant of £150.00 towards the cost of a story board at the Pinfold and would make a formal presentation of the cheque to the Parish Council at their next meeting.

5 POLICE REPORT:

The Police Community Support Officer reported on incidents of crime in the area since the last meeting of the Parish Council. She circulated a copy of the Police Chorley Rural East Newsletter for May 2012.

The Fire Officer reported on the operation of the Rural Watch Fire Safety Checks initiative which was offering free fire safety checks to properties in rural areas. He asked that details should be spread throughout local community groups.

He was particularly concerned to reach the elderly people living alone and other vulnerable groups and was willing to address local groups about the scheme. The Parish Council agreed to disseminate the information.

He also reported on other projects he was undertaking in connection with an education programme on fire safety.

Councillor Ms Urry suggested that the Fire Officer should address the Chorley Equality Forum.

The Clerk also circulated a copy of the Spring Newsletter of the Air Support Unit and a notification from the County Council Trading Standards Officer on Scam Alerts.

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He reminded the Parish Council that the next Air Support Unit Pact Meeting would be held on Thursday 7th June 2012 at the Black Horse Hotel Gregson Lane at 10.00a.m.

There not been a Police PACT meeting in May 2012.

The Clerk reported that in September 2011 the Police and Social Responsibility Act became law. As a result police authorities would be abolished in favour of directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners. This meant that in Lancashire on 15th November 2012 the public for the first time ever would elect a Police and Crime Commissioner who would be accountable for how crime was tackled. PCCs would set priorities, respond to the needs and demands of their communities and hold to account the Chief Constable for the delivery and performance of his force. They would not run the police but be the voice of the people and hold the police to account.

Lancashire Police Authority had established a Transitional Government Board to oversee the implementation of the changes and enable the smooth transition to the new arrangements. The Clerk circulated the spring newsletter relating to the latest developments being undertaken by the Board.

Councillor Sharratt reported on the arrangements for candidates seeking to be elected as Police and Crime Commissioner.

6. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter including a Legal Topic Note from NALC on the revised Code of Conduct.

He also submitted an invoice for the Association's Subscription Fees for 2012/13 amounting to £133.51 compared with the figure for 2011/12 of £150.07 which was a decrease from last year of £16.56.

The Parish Council agreed to continue its membership of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils, to the payment of the annual subscription fees in the sum of £133.51 and the cheque was signed.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported the outcome of the Chorley Area Committee meeting held on 28th March 2012 and informed the Parish Council that the Secretary of the Area Committee had resigned, and referred to the meeting of the Three Tier Forum held on 20th March 2012

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FOOTPATH –PARISH CHURCH:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that he was currently liaising with Councillor Peter preparing an estimate of the cost of undertaking the work.

(B) ROAD SURFACE – QUAKER BROOK LANE:

At the last meeting Councillor Sharratt expressed concern regarding the condition of the carriageway. The road surface was bunching up under pressure from vehicles and was leading to the deterioration of the foundations.

The Clerk had informed the Highways Inspectorate and this was being investigated.

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Councillor Sharratt indicated that he was to meet representatives of the Environment Directorate on highways matters and would raised this issue with them

(C) ROAD MARKINGS A675 BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

The Clerk reported that a completion date of 5th May 2012 for the white lining work had passed and the work had not been done. Councillor Sharratt reported that a team carrying out such work was currently in Higher Walton and he felt that this work would be extended to Blackburn Old Road.

The Clerk would ascertain the current situation regarding the white lining.

Councillor Baldwin still considered that the surface of the road by the Village Hall was in a dangerous condition and needed attention.

The Clerk would ask the Highways Inspector to look at this.

(D) DUMPING OF ROADSIDE MATERIAL –VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK:

At the last meeting the Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported that he had been informed by a local resident that what appeared to be waste road side material had been dumped on the Village Hall Car Park. It was claimed that the people dumping the rubbish were Chorley Council employees.

The Clerk had asked the Neighbourhood Officer to investigate this claim and he had indicated that it was not Chorley Council. The Clerk had then contacted Lancashire County Council and they had also denied dumping rubbish.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) had discussed this again with the complainant who was adamant the dumping was done by Council workmen.

The rubbish had still not been removed and was becoming overgrown.

The Neighbourhood Officer would be asked to again to remove the rubbish.

(E) PRIVATE ROAD:

At the last meeting Councillor Sharratt reported that a tree was leaning across the road and was in danger of falling down. The Clerk had asked the County Council's Tree Service to investigate this.

The Clerk had contacted County Council and County Councillor Devaney regarding mud being deposited on the road and the Highways Inspector had investigated the matter and arranged for the road to be swept. He had also been informed that the road would be patched on 21st and 22nd May 2012 ready for surface dressing and circulated details of the temporary closure of the road on these dates.

Councillor Ms Urry commented on the number of dead and dying trees in the area and asked if the Tree Inspector could look into this. Councillor Peter explained the procedure to be followed.

(F). OVERGROWN HEDGE – CHAPEL LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that he had received a complaint from a local resident that the hedge on Chapel Lane was overgrown causing pedestrians to walk in the road. The Clerk had notified the Highways Inspectorate.

(G) POTHoles CHAPEL LANE:

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The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that there were large potholes on Chapel Lane near the former Methodist Chapel. The Clerk had notified the Highways Inspectorate.

(H) SIGNS – WEASEL LANE:

County Councillor Devaney had reported that the County Council had identified the signage that they can supply and its placement was imminent.

The street sign had been passed to Chorley because it in was their remit to supply and locate. Additionally working through the Cabinet member for this activity, Chorley had agreed that the company in Weasel Lane could put their own sign at the corner of the lane, they simply had to supply details of the design, size etc and there should not be a problem.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the current situation regarding this.

(I) PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE:

The Clerk submitted details of an offer from the Environment Directorate of the County Council regarding the delegation of Public Rights of Way Maintenance to Parish Councils. The Parish Council would look into participating in the scheme.

8 CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the recent meeting of Chorley Council.

9. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS.

The following applications had been granted since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

(1) Proposed single garage with pitched roof to side of existing dwelling Sunnymead Station Road (App no 12/00252/FUL) Applicants Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

(2) Erection of a first floor rear extension and balcony (above the single storey extension approved as part of application 10/00851/FUL) 13 Chapel Lane (App no 12/00232/FUL) Applicant Mr. McMochan.

(3) Erection of new entrance lobby to front and covered smoking shelter to side (following demolition of existing entrance lobby); creation of external landscaping to form new seating area and wheelchair access ramp; construction of new stone balustrade to front and replacement of windows and doors and erection of illuminated post sign Boars Head Hotel Blackburn Old Road. (App no 12/00284/FUL) Applicant Boars Head Public House.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

1. Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension 14 Viaduct Road (App no 12/00320/FUL) Applicants Mr and Mrs Antrobus.

No observations had been made on this application and Chorley Council had been informed.

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2. Erection of a single storey side extension The Willows 5 The Crossings. (App no 12/00319/FUL) Applicants Mr and Mrs Nuttall.

No observations had been made on this application and Chorley Council had been informed.

3. Diversification of one and a half unused greenhouses into rural outdoor educational facility Ricroft Nursery Quaker Brook Lane (App No 12/00378/FUL) Applicants Mr and Mrs. Peter.

No observations were made on this application.

Councillor Peter declared a financial interest in this application and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(C) DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS – CONSULTATION:

The Clerk submitted consultation documents relating to Affordable Housing, Controlling Re-use of Employment Premises, Rural Development, Access to Healthy Food and a Design Guide which had been produced by Preston Chorley and South Ribble Councils.

The purpose was to provide guidance on the interpretation and implementation of relevant planning policies in the Central Lancashire Core Strategy and would form part of the Local Development Framework for each Council. Any comments on the documents were required by 30 May 2012.

No observations be made on the policies contained in the documents.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

There were no accounts for payment

11. INSURANCE PREMIUM - RENEWAL.

The Clerk submitted details of the Parish Council's insurance quotation from Norwich Union for the period from 1st June 2012. and reported that the cost of renewing this would amount to £589.12- compared with a figure of £562.47 for 2011/12 an increase of £26.65 since last year. This premium would be reduced by 5% if the Parish Council agreed to stay with Norwich Union for further three years a reduction of a £29.46 giving a sum of £559.66 a reduction of £2.81 over last year.

The Parish Council was requested to consider the offer, decide whether the cover offered was adequate and whether to continue with Norwich Union for a further three years.

A sum of £650.00 had been included in the Parish Council's Estimates for this premium in 2012/13.

It was agreed (1) That the quotation from Norwich Union should be accepted and that this Company should be the Parish Council Insurers for the period 2012 to 2015.

(2) That the premium of £559.66 be paid and a cheque was signed.

12. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:

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The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Audit for 2011/12 would take place on 1st June 2012.

The Independent Internal Auditor had examined the Parish Council's Accounts and procedures, confirmed that they were in order, agreed the Audit Report and submitted it to the Parish Council for approval.

The Clerk also reported that under the procedure it was necessary for the Parish Council to approve a statement of governance that the accounts had been undertaken in accordance with prescribed regulations. A copy of the Annual Return Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Independent Auditors Report was circulated to each Member.

The Parish Council acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation of the accounts and confirmed, to the best of its knowledge and belief that the Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012 were true and correct and that they had considered the statement of governance in connection with those accounts.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) then signed the Annual Return where appropriate.

The Clerk reported on the new Audit arrangements from 2013.

13. QUEEN`S DIAMOND JUBILEE:

The Clerk submitted details of the cost of providing a flagpole at the Pinfold.

The Parish Council was reminded of its earlier discussions regarding the siting of the flagpole at the Pinfold and Councillor Peter suggested that it should be located by the War Memorial.

The Clerk would investigate the feasibility of this.

14. DOG CONTROL ORDERS;

The Clerk reported that Chorley Council was to introduce further measures under the Clean Environment and Neighbourhoods Act relating to dog control this involved a requirement to put dogs on leads in certain circumstances. The Parish Council had until 6 June to comment.

No comments were made.

15. VAT ON LISTED BUILDING;

The Clerk referred to the recent change made by the Government to include VAT on the costs of repairs to listed buildings and asked if the Parish Council wished to support to the campaign to remove this charge. This was agreed.

16. PRECEPT 2012/13:

The Clerk reported that the precept had been paid into the Parish Council's Bank Account.

17, SUE RYDER FOUNDATION:

The Clerk submitted a request from this organisation for a donation. The Parish Council adhered to the existing policy of not making grants to organisations, which had no specific connection with the Parish.

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18. EQUALITY FORUM SUB GROUP:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that there would be a meeting of the Isolation in Rural Areas Sub Group on 22nd May 2012.

19. MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the mobile library service was now operating fortnightly at the Community Centre Gregson Lane. The service had offered to call at the homes of less able bodied people.

20. RIBBLE STEAM RAILWAY:

Councillor Ms Urry submitted a leaflet on the Steam Railway.

21. GREGSON LANE CAFÉ:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the café in the Community Centre at Gregson Lane was now open for the summer.

22. CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

Councillor Sharratt referred to changes in the political control of Chorley Council and reminded the Parish Council that about 18months ago he had been nominated by Brindle and Hoghton Parish Councils to serve on the Chorley Standards Committee but had not been appointed.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) and the Clerk would consult Chorley Council to see if there were any changes to their position relating to appointments to the Standards Committee.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 18th June 2012 the Annual General Meeting at 7.45.pm at the Village Hall

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40.

p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

18TH JUNE 2012